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RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, - - Editor

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THE ANARCHISTS' APPEAL.

The argument made before the Illinois Supreme Court at Ottawa in behalf of the condemned Anarchists by Mr. Leonard S. Sweet of Chicago on Thursday is not spoken of as being a specially strong effort. It was probably somewhat below the expectation of his clients and of the general public, considering Mr. Sweet's well-known ability as a lawyer. It is to be recociled, however, that he is not on the popular side of the question. He is arguing against the weight of opinion, as well as the legal judgment in the case, and it is not the clamor of the popular side that he is confronted, but the verdict of a conservatively sentiment of the country.

It is the fixed belief of the people at large that the condemned men are guilty, if not of the actual murder, at least of the death of the victims of the Haymarket tragedy. There is no trace of partialism in the witness with which they are charged; not even an element of romance in the story of their conspiracy; no semblance of martyrdom in their distress—nothing but what has been aped to sympathy other than the strange inability of the conspirators to comprehend the enormity of their crime and the intellectual or moral perversion by which they were misled.

It is little wonder, then, that Mr. Sweet's oratory fell short of fervid inspiration. He was speaking at a great disadvantage, quite as much so before a bench of unimpassioned judges as before a prejudiced and unsympathetic jury. Yet he doubtless made all of the case that it is possible to make, and it is due to the unfortunate men whose cause he has in hand, that they should have the full benefit of the exceptions which he took to the evidence on which they were convicted and to the incompetency of the jurors by whom he claims they were prejudged.

Their fate is to be determined, not in accordance with the universal feeling that they are morally responsible for the death of the seven murdered policemen and that they deserve to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, but on the technical question whether they committed a violation of law, and whether they were convicted on proper testimony. Mr. Sweet insists that they acted in violation of no existing law; that the evidence adduced against them was inadmissible where it was not irrelevant, and that they were not tried by an impartial jury. It is on these strictly legal points that the case rests, not on public sentiment, and an Anarchist has as much right, we suppose, to make use of the loopholes of the law to escape amercability for his transgressions as any other kind of a citizen.

It is to be presumed that the Supreme Court of Illinois will act in the matter without fear or prejudice, and solely with reference to the administration of justice in due judicial form. As for public sentiment, it would in all probability rest satisfied with a remission of the death sentence, but never pallently consent to an exercise of the pardoning power. It may be that the safety of society and the stability of our civil institutions do not demand the death of August Spies and his associates; that imprisonment would prove a sufficiently exemplary penalty for those who committed a crime of a contingency not to be entreated.

It is possible that a new trial will be granted on the pending appeal, but unless enough of the evidence is ruled out to leave the case with nothing to stand on, the final acquittal of the appellants can mean innocent of offense as fast as it comes in. This would obviate the danger of contraction to an appreciable extent and with no improvident waste of the revenue.

It is very possible that in all this great Government no place can be found even as a watchman, for a veteran who deserves so well of his country as Captain James A. Herrington, the battle-scarred pilot. A man with Herrington's heroic record should not be compelled to stand off shore month after month, in a vain endeavor to heat into harbor, and we are glad to learn that, after twenty years' waiting, he is in a fair way to get some humble recognition of his services on the watch force of the Treasury.

The citizens of Brooklyn are now proposing to found a memorial library, as well as build a monument, in honor of the late Mr. Beecher. Wouldn't it be wise plan to do but one thing at a time? Statues are not erected in a minute. One or the other should be completed and out of the way before a dollar is raised for the next.

MY GRAVE.—Secretary Endicott was in the city yesterday, says the New York *Tribune*, on his way back to Washington from Massachusetts. When asked about the reports of his resignation in consequence of trouble in his Department over a certain General Moore, he said, "I have no objection to your asking that story; it has been denied over and over again in the Boston papers on my own authority. The entire relation was a coal-and-hail story. There was no truth to it."

Mr. Cleveland has nominated Mr. Moore to succeed him, and Mr. Endicott is to be appointed to the office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

COLONEL TOM O'BRIEN is said to be an applicant for the position of Chief of the Government Marine Service. Now he will have to call on Mr. Endicott Monday and Wednesday mornings, at 9 o'clock.

J. J. COYLE.

NOTES AND GOSSIP.—There are about 3,000 libraries in the United States containing 1,000,000 volumes or more.

NO ACTION will be taken by Plymouth Church until next fall towards appointing a new pastor.

PRESIDENT GARRETT of the R. & O., and Mrs. Garrett, died last evening with Mr. George V. Clark of Philadelphia.

QUEEN Victoria's jubilee will be officially celebrated in Canada on the 21st of June, and in various cities on various dates.

Mr. President, in making estimates for 1888, give the Mother of Presidents by Virginia, as a return gift, the tactics of a steamer.

Something which Republians never indulge in. That is, hardly ever. But don't give it away. We are no Mugwumps.

Notwithstanding those tactics, Major Harris was scuppered, which was largely owing to the fact that you did not sign the letter and Harbor Hill, and if you desire to restore harmony in Virginia we would advise you to apologize to the Major at your earliest convenience.

Mr. President, everything Congress didn't do has lost the poor old Democracy of Virginia, as a return gift, to the tactics of a steamer.

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